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# Billy Carter Lied On Libya Funds, U.S. Lawyer Says

## But He Can't Be Prosecuted For Giving False Answers To Justice Investigators

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WASHINGTON—Billy Carter lied twice to government investigators about cash he received from Libya, according to the attorney who ran the investigation.

Joel Lisker, a Justice Department lawyer, said Billy Carter lied to him in interviews on Jan. 16 and June 11 in an attempt to conceal payments he had received from Libya.

"That calls into question his veracity," Mr. Lisker said in an interview. "We have to be very careful to review his filing (a registration as a foreign agent) with respect to his accuracy."

Justice Department officials said they couldn't prosecute Mr. Carter for lying when asked by investigators whether he received money from Libya. But if the continuing inquiry finds he filed false information in his registration and disclosure form, he could be prosecuted, they say.

Billy Carter also told Mr. Lisker on Jan. 16 that "Jimmy" had given him copies of cables on his first visit to Libya in 1978. But Mr. Lisker was unsure whether Billy Carter might have been kidding or being "misleading" in the obvious reference to his brother, the President.

### Possible Violation Seen

Rep. Harold Sawyer (R., Mich.), a member of the House Judiciary Committee who has seen a Federal Bureau of Investigation interview report on Billy Carter, said that if Billy Carter's statement were verified, it could indicate that President Carter violated security regulations. "Then Billy isn't guilty of anything, but I don't think Jimmy's in too good a position," Mr. Sawyer said.

Mr. Lisker said, however, that he hadn't attempted to verify the assertion, nor had he learned what kind of cables Billy Carter claimed to have. "It wasn't part of the investigation that I was conducting at the time," Mr. Lisker said.

The White House said, in a statement, that the President's "best recollection is that the only State Department cables he has ever discussed with his brother "are low-classification cables from our embassy in Libya reporting on Billy Carter's first trip to Libya in September 1978, and indicating that the trip had gone well from the embassy's point of view."

According to the statement, the President doesn't recall whether he personally saw the cables, and "he doesn't now recall showing the text to Billy Carter or giving him copies."

### Mushrooming Controversy

The disclosures added to the controversy that has mushroomed since Billy Carter registered as a foreign agent of Libya July 14 to settle a Justice Department civil suit against him. The filing was the culmination of an 18-month investigation by the department, but Mr. Lisker made clear yesterday that the investigation continues, to determine whether Billy Carter told the truth in his disclosure.

In filing, Billy Carter said he had received \$220,000 in two payments as well as gifts valued at \$2,850 plus two free trips to Libya.

A nine-member Senate panel has begun investigating whether Libya tried to influence U.S. policy through Billy Carter and others. On Tuesday, the President asked to testify personally before that Senate subcommittee and stated, "The facts will clearly demonstrate that at no time did my brother influence me . . . or the policies of this government."

The House Judiciary Committee voted yesterday to approve a "resolution of inquiry" into the Billy Carter affair, which would direct the President to answer a series of written questions. But the issue can't reach the House floor until the week of Aug. 18. The President has pledged to answer all questions before then.

Mr. Lisker said the topic of cables came up during an interview in his room in an Americus, Ga., motel, where he had spread on a coffee table some unclassified State Department messages about Billy Carter's trip.

He said Billy Carter commented, "You got the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) cables? I got those."

Mr. Lisker said he asked Billy Carter where they came from, and the response was, "I got them from Jimmy."

"I haven't any idea" what Billy Carter had, Mr. Lisker said. "I don't even know if there were any cables . . . Billy isn't precise. He has a pretty good sense of humor. You can't tell whether he's being misleading or not."

Mr. Lisker added: "We will conduct whatever investigation is necessary to determine which documents he has."

In the same Jan. 16 interview, Mr. Lisker said, Billy Carter told him and an FBI agent that he had called President Carter's appointments secretary, Phil Wise, and someone at the State Department to ask about C130 aircraft that Libya had purchased. The State Department has blocked export of the planes because of Libya's involvement in terrorism.

Mr. Lisker said Mr. Wise didn't recall the contact. But William Quandt, a member of the National Security Council staff, later talked on three or four occasions to Billy Carter's associate in the Libyan venture, Henry Coleman, Mr. Lisker said, and in one of those calls, Billy Carter joined the conversation.

But Mr. Lisker said he didn't find any evidence that Billy Carter "tried to influence the disposition or the outcome" of the C130 export or a separate sale of Boeing Co. 727 aircraft.

According to Mr. Lisker, Billy Carter told him he had read about the C130s in a Jack Anderson column, and that "I wanted to find out what the story was."

### Vesco Stories Discounted

Mr. Lisker discounted stories that fugitive financier Robert Vesco had set up Billy Carter's payments from Libya. Two Senators had said that Mr. Vesco told them last weekend he did so to get revenge on the administration for seeking his arrest on stock-swindle charges.

"I don't believe Vesco had anything to do with this," Mr. Lisker said.

According to a report, on Cable News Network, Mr. Vesco also told Senators that he had won approval of the sale of the Boeing 727s. But Mr. Lisker said the evidence showed that the sale was approved because of pressure from Congress and the Commerce Department.